



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Yvonne M. Dennis, DOB 6/8/68, of the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation near Hayward, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Madison to a charge that she allowed her residence to be used for the manufacturing and selling of crack cocaine. Dennis faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine. Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb scheduled sentencing for June 21, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

The government's proof at the guilty plea hearing established that Dennis lived on the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation near Hayward and, from approximately January 2001 to the end of October 2002, she allowed the Latin King gang to use her house for their drug business. Members of the Latin King gang paid Dennis small amounts of crack cocaine and gang members then cooked, packaged, and sold crack cocaine to customers who were sent to that residence. The evidence established that approximately 80-100 customers per day came to the residence and purchased, conservatively, \$2,000-3,000 of crack cocaine per week over this time period.

Today's guilty plea is the result of an investigation which began in June 2002 by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of

Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, and the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department.

Approximately 26 individuals have previously been sentenced to prison. Eleven members of the Latin King gang were indicted on March 22, 2005, and are scheduled for a September 12 trial. Prosecution of these cases has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Vaudreuil.

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